

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00587 090923Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 /072 W
-----090927Z 107086 /10

R 090820Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9748
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SW, SP, PO
SUBJECT: SWEDISH LABOR DELEGATION'S VISIT TO SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

REF: 76 STOCKHOLM 6497

1. AS ANTICIPATED REFTEL, LO AND TCO JOINT DELEGATION VISITED SPAIN AND PORTUGAL LATE LAST MONTH TO SEE HOW TRADE UNION SITUATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES IS DEVELOPING AS BASIS FOR PROVIDING FURTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. ERIK KARLSSON, AN LO INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY WHO WAS MEMBER OF THE GROUP, MET WITH LABATT ON FEBRUARY 7 AND OFFERED FOLLOWING MAIN OBSERVATIONS ON TRIP:

2. IN KEEPING WITH UGT DESIRES, LO HAD EARMARKED INITIAL CONTRIBUTION OF SKR. 260,000 FOR SETTING UP OFFICES IN BARCELONA AND SEVERAL OTHER INDUSTRIAL CITIES IN CATALONIA. GROUP VISITED THESE OFFICES AND CAME AWAY SATISFIED THAT MONEY HAD BEEN EMPLOYED EFFECTIVELY AND WITHOUT WASTE. SWEDES
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WERE ALSO SURPRISED AND IMPRESSED AT HIGH QUALITY OF OFFICIALS THEY MET.

3. SWEDES WERE FAR LESS HAPPY WITH STV VISIT IN BILBAO. STV OFFICIALS WERE GENERALLY UNCOMMUNICATIVE, AND GAVE NO CLEAR ACCOUNTING OF HOW THEY HAD USED SKR. 50,000 GIVEN BY LO. ALTHOUGH STV CLAIMED TO BE NATIONAL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION, KARLSSON SAID DELEGATION CAME AWAY

WITH FIRM IMPRESSION THAT IT IS FIRST AND FOREMOST A
BASQUE NATIONALIST OUTFIT FOR WHICH TRADE UNIONISM IS
LARGELY MEANS TO AN END.

4. WHAT TO DO ABOUT USO POSES A PROBLEM FOR SWEDES.
USO HAS A STANDING APPLICATION WITH LO FOR FINANCIAL
AID AND KARLSSON IS PRETTY SURE THERE WILL BE A PSOTIVE
RESPONSE SOONER OR LATER IF ONLY TO AVOID CHARGE OF
PLAYING FAVORITES. HOWEVER, LO QUESTIONS WISDOM OF
ENCOURAGING USO TO MAINTAIN SEPARATE EXISTENCE.
ACCORDING TO KARLSSON'S INFORMATION, COMBINED UGT
AND USO MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH IS AT PRESENT ALMOST
EQUAL TO THAT OF COMMUNIST-LED WORKER COMMISSIONS.
SWEDES ARE THEREFORE LED TO BELIEVE THAT MERGER OF UGT
AND USO WOULD GREATLY STRENGTHEN POSITION OF DEMOCRATIC
UNIONS IN BATTLE FOR MEMBERSHIP WHICH WILL FOLLOW
PASSAGE OF NEW TRADE UNION LAW.

5. VISIT TO LISBON WAS COMPLETE WASHOUT. DELEGATION
ARRIVED ON A FRIDAY AND AS RESULT OF "MISUNDERSTANDINGS"
AND INTERSINDICAL CONGRESS WHICH WAS GOING ON AT THAT
TIME, NO MEETINGS COULD BE ARRANGED. PART OF DELEGA-
TION DEPARTED FOLLOWING DAY AND REST ON SUNDAY.

6. KARLSSON SAID LO WOULD PROBABLY PROVIDE ANOTHER
DONATION TO UGT FOR ACTIVITIES IN CATALONIA. TCO IS
EXPECTED TO FOLLOW SUIT BUT WITHOUT SPECIFYING HOW MONEY
IS TO BE USED. NEITHER ORGANIZATION CONTEMPLATES ANY
ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR STV AND NOTHING IS PLANNED FOR
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PORTUGAL.
SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Remarks:
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